

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

The present invention relates to a process for manufacturing an electret article.

In the Office Action dated May 10, 2010, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on the Examiner's impression of two possible interpretations of claim 1, and of claim 4 as appearing to be contradictory to claim 1. Furthermore, claims 1 and 3 - 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Angadjivand et al (USP 6,375,886) in view of Cinar et al (Applied Scientific Research, V 50(1) pages 1 - 9, 1998).

In view of an apparent misunderstanding as to what was intended to be claimed, an interview was arranged and conducted on July 20, 2010, between the undersigned Attorney and Examiner Dahimene and Primary Examiner Deo Duy, as reported in the Interview Summary issued by the Examiner on July 26, 2010, which is also addressed in a Statement of Substance of Interview filed simultaneously herewith. Particularly, it is noted that based on a detailed consideration of the process of the present invention, as described, e.g., at pages 9 - 11, and particularly in the paragraph bridging pages 10 - 11, due to the average diameter of the droplets being less than 20 μ m in carrying out the process of the present invention, the fibers are not wetted upon passing through the mist space. Also, regarding claim 4, it was explained and is noted that the heated gas blown onto the melt-extruded thermoplastic resin fibers is carried out

before the fibers are passed through the mist space in accordance with the present invention; accordingly, there is no contradiction of claim 1 by claim 4.

Based on the discussions at the Interview, the Examiner indicated that an explicit recitation to clarify that the fibers are not wetted by the mist of the polar liquid would be helpful in distinguishing the present process over the cited art.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended herein to explicitly recite that the fibers are not wetted upon passing through the mist space. Also, in view of the relationship of the various recitations in claim 1, Applicant has adopted Examiner Dahimene's suggestion to move the recitation regarding the average diameter of the droplet being less than 20 μ m from the end of claim 1 to the middle of claim 1, following the first description of the droplets of a polar liquid.

Claim 10, directed to an apparatus for manufacturing an eletret article, has been amended consistent with claim 1 to explicitly recite that with respect to the means for collecting the thermoplastic fibers which have been passed through the mist space, that such is done without subjecting the fibers to a drying step.

In view of the foregoing, and the discussions with the Examiners, it is respectfully submitted that all bases for rejection have been overcome, and claims 1 and 3 - 10 are now in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, entry and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3 - 10 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

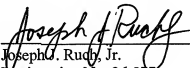
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 10, 2010



Joseph J. Rudy, Jr.
Registration No. 26,577